

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8, 13 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 3, 5, 9-12, 16 and 17 as provided in the following complete listing of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a first management apparatus for managing first privilege information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by a user via a network in a virtual world and ~~first identification information to be~~ a user identifier that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that ~~they~~ the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the user identifier is stored in an IC card and the transaction that is conducted by the user in the virtual world is made using the IC card; and

a second management apparatus for managing second privilege information that is generated in accordance with a transaction conducted by the user in a real world and ~~second identification information to be~~ the user identifier that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that ~~they~~ the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the transaction that is conducted by the user in the real world is also made using the IC card,

wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus converts the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into privilege information to be managed by itself according to a prescribed conversion factor and manages the privilege information obtained by the result of the conversion, such that the first and second privilege information is automatically converted and accorded to the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world and the real world using the IC card.

2. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

3. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information ~~is an~~ are associated with a maximum amount of money ~~corresponding to an upper limit service~~ that the user can receive respectively use in the virtual world and the real world.

4. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus converts, in response to a request from the user, the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into first or second privilege information to be managed by itself, and manages the first or second privilege information obtained by the conversion.

5. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

6. (Original) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus performs settlement processing in response to a settlement request about a transaction that the user has conducted.

7. (Previously presented) The communication system according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the first management apparatus and the second management apparatus performs the processing of issuing the point.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with ~~the degree of contribution to a business relating to the first management apparatus of an act that the user has performed in~~ a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world ~~or the degree of credibility that the user has acquired by an act that the user has performed in the virtual world.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with ~~the degree of contribution to a business relating to the second management apparatus of an act that the user has performed in~~ a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world ~~or the degree of credibility that the user has acquired by an act that the user has performed in the real world.~~

11. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising the steps of:
managing first privileges information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by a user via a network in a virtual world ~~by manipulating a terminal apparatus and first identification information to be~~ a user identifier that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that ~~they~~ the first privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the user identifier is stored in an IC card and the transaction that is conducted by the user in the virtual world is made using the IC card;

managing second privilege information generated in accordance with a transaction that is conducted by the user in a real world and ~~second identification information to be~~ the user identifier

that is used for identifying the user in such a manner that ~~they~~ the second privilege information and the user identifier are correlated with each other, wherein the transaction that is conducted by the user in the real world is also made using the IC card; and

converting, by at least one of a first management apparatus and a second management apparatus, the first or second privilege information that is managed by the other into privilege information to be managed by itself according to a prescribed conversion factor and managing the privilege information obtained by the results of the conversion, such that the first and second privilege information is automatically converted and accorded to the user when the user conducts transactions in the virtual world and the real world using the IC card.

12. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first privilege information and the second privilege information are the same type of information.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Original) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the first privilege information and the second privilege information is an addable point.

16. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the first management apparatus provides the first privilege information in accordance with ~~the degree of contribution to a business relating to the first management apparatus of an act that the user has performed in~~ a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the virtual world or

~~the degree of credibility that the user has acquired by an act that the user has performed in the virtual world.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the second management apparatus provides the second privilege information in accordance with ~~the degree of contribution to a business relating to the second management apparatus of an act that the user has performed in~~ a credibility of the user or a contribution by the user in the real world ~~or the degree of credibility that the user has acquired by an act that the user has performed in the real world.~~